

Notes of Meeting: Lancashire & West Yorkshire Advisory Board

25th November 2021

Attendance

Attendance data is published annually on the GOV.UK website.

AB members who sent their apologies for the meeting have, where possible, been consulted on all projects before the meeting. Their views are reflected in the discussion at the meeting (where appropriate). This excludes items where that member declared a conflict of interest.

Regional Schools Commissioner (RSC) chair

- Vicky Beer (RSC)

Advisory Board (AB) members

- Duncan Jacques
- Karen Bramwell
- Julie Bradley
- Jonathan Nichols
- Lesley Gwinnett
- Julian Appleyard
- Chris Melia

DfE senior civil servants

- ESFA Representatives

Representations received

- No representations were made for any items discussed at this meeting.

General Discussion Points

Local Update

- RSC provided a COVID 19 local update (as of 25th November 2021) to the board

AB member reflections

- The board reflected on the impact the pandemic has had on their schools and the wider community

Converter Academy Orders

Points discussed in relation to school conversion.

Project: Discussion to consider Torkington Primary School, Stockport, to convert and join The Honeycomb Education Trust

AB discussion:

- The board agreed that the schools have strong leadership in place and already have a collaborative working relationship.
- The board discussed the trust's future growth plans and the support this will provide the local area.
- The board recommended for the CEO to join a learning set to support with succession planning and growth strategy challenges.
- SRMA to be deployed to help transition from a Single Academy Trust to a Multi-Academy Trust.
- The Board agreed they are happy to approve these projects.

RSC decision: Approved

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Project lead to inform Trust and DCS of decision

Project: Discussion to consider Mellor Primary School (SAT), Stockport, to become The Honeycomb Education Trust (MAT)

AB discussion:

- The board agreed that the schools have strong leadership in place and already have a collaborative working relationship.
- The board discussed the trust's future growth plans and the support this will provide the local area.
- The board recommended for the CEO to join a learning set to support with succession planning and growth strategy challenges.
- SRMA to be deployed to help transition from a Single Academy Trust to a Multi-Academy Trust.
- The Board agreed that they are happy to approve these projects.

RSC decision: Approved with conditions

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Project lead to inform Trust and DCS of decision

Project: Discussion to consider St Mary Magdalene's Roman Catholic Primary School, Lancashire, to convert and join Romero Catholic Academy Trust

AB discussion:

- The board supported this proposal and agreed the trust will benefit from the school's

strong leadership team.

- The board advised that confidence is needed on how the school will reset some of the declining areas in its data.
- The board recognised that this would be the trust's first converter academy and that the CEO learning sets could support.
- ESFA requested a SMRA deployment to validate the trust's financial recovery plan.

RSC decision: Approved with conditions

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Project lead to inform Trust and DCS of decision

Sponsored Route:

Points discussed in relation to a school's sponsor status.

Project: Discussion to consider Glenaire Primary School, Bradford, to convert and join Exceed Academies Trust

Reason for Academy Order: Ofsted Category 4

AB discussion:

- Board members supported this proposal.
- The board advised that the trust base strategy on a risk management approach due to the school's declining pupil forecast.
- ESFA acknowledged that the trust's financial strength could withstand the short-term impact

RSC decision: Approved

Conflicts: Duncan Jacques did not receive any papers for this project and was not present for this discussion

Further actions required: Project lead to inform Trust and DCS of decision

Sponsor Application

Points discussed in relation to applications for sponsor application.

Project: Discussion to consider The Wythenshawe Catholic Academy Trust, Manchester, sponsor application

AB discussion:

- Board members agreed that they are happy to support this application.
- The board acknowledged that the trust has a fully embedded CEO who is working with their Executive Team across the trust.
- The Board are also reassured that the partnership with Bishop Hogarth Catholic Education Trust will be helpful.
- ESFA advise an SRMA visit to provide the financial expertise and support required.

RSC decision: Approved

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Project lead to inform Trust and DCS of decision

Significant Change

Points discussed in relation to significant changes application(s).

Project: Discussion to consider Litherland High School and Litherland Moss Primary School (The Heath Family (North West), Sefton, to share school buildings and remain as separate schools

AB discussion:

- The Board were happy to agree this proposal.

RSC decision: Approved

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Project lead to inform the trust of decision